(a) whether Government have, of late, reviewed and revised the iron ore exports policy, in view of the latest protests against iron ore exports;

(b) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(c) what steps are being envisaged to meet the growing needs of the domestic steel industry and to keep ore exports in tune with demands of the domestic steel industry's growth?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The existing iron ore export policy regulates and promotes judicious use of iron ore for domestic purpose and export of surplus quantity. Production of iron ore is in excess of current domestic demand. Besides, the surplus iron ore fines, produced during mining as well as sizing and calibrating lumpy ore has to be envacuated through enabling exports as there is meagre demand for it by domestic steel industry. Its accumulation would lead to curtailment of production resulting in unemployment predominantly in tribal areas, increased cost of production, reduction in economic activities and export earnings in addition to causing environmental hazards.

Funds for floriculture export

4450. SHRI B.J. PANDA:
MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have set up a special fund to boost exports of floriculture;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action plan of Government to develop this sector in Orissa, to improve its economy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Agriculture and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) has extended financial assistance for conducting State level seminars for floriculture development in State of Orissa. There is no specific action plan for improving the economy of the State through development of exports of floriculture.

Flouting ban on pulses by exporters

4451. SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN:
SHRI MAHENDRA SAHNI:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in a latest revelation made in the first week of April, it came to notice that while exporters were flouting the ban on pulses, the Commerce Ministry knew of the precise quantum of pulse trade but chose not to intervene;

(b) if so, whether its own agency, Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics said it was regularly updating the Ministry on pulses being shipped out during the ban;

(c) which companies violated the ban; and

(d) what action Government have taken against the officials who allowed export and also against the exporters?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) *Prime facie,* three companies have been found to have violated the ban on export of pulses, namely, M/s Jetking International, M/s Kohinoor Foods and M/s. KRBL Ltd.

(d) Necessary proceedings under the FT (DR) Act, 1992 against the above firms have been initiated.